

## Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

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61-S

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SY-05 SS-15 NSC-05 SAM-01 EUR-12

CIAE-00 INR-07 SP-02 /055 W

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R 051430Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL BUKAVU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 377

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

S E C R E T BUKAVU 006

ADDIS ABABA FOR RSS, KINSHASA FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: XGDS (2)

TAGS: ASEC, CG

SUBJECT: KIDNAP THREAT - BUKAVU

REF: A. STATE 033132, B. KINSHASA 947 (NOTAL)

1. PRINCIPAL OFFICER HAS ON NUMEROUS OCCASSIONS SPOKEN WITH FORMER REGIONAL COMMISSIONER NDEBO, COMMANDANT, 7TH MILITARY REGION MANDUNGU, CND CHIEF PELENDU AND BELGIAN CONGEN REEBAERT, AS WELL AS THEIR VARIOUS ASSISTANTS, REGARDING KIDNAPPING THREAT. WE ARE ALL IN ACCORD ON SEVERAL POINTS:

A. ALTHOUGH BUKAVU IS A CITY OF SOME 150,000 ONLY ABOUT TWO THOUSAND OF ITS INHABITANTS (APPROXIMATELY 600 EUROPEANS AND OTHER EXPATRIATS AND 1400 ZAIROIS) COULD BE CONSIDERED AS BEING ACTIVE (IN ANY REAL SENSE) IN THE COMMUNITY. IT IS IN EFFECT, A VERY SMALL TOWN. LIKE SMALL TOWNS EVERYWHERE EVERYONE KNOWS EVERYONE ELSE'S BUSINESS OR

AT LEAST THINKS HE DOES. THIS COMPOUNDED BY FACT THAT REMAINDER OF PF POPULATION EASILY SENSITIZED BY ACTIONS OR NON-ACTIONS OF THE 2000.

B. IT ALREADY COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT PRP MADE THREATS ON FORMER

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REGIONAL COMMISSIONER NDEBO'S LIFE AND THAT SIMILAR THREATS HAVE BEEN MADE TOWARD BELGIAN AND U.S. CONSULS.

C. GIVEN CURRENT STATE OF ECONOMY AND ITS GRAVE EFFECTS ON BULK OF POPULATION, THERE EXISTS CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN FULL CONFIDENCE IN CAPABILITIES OF REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION IN PARTICULAR AND MPR IN GENERAL.

D. REEMERGENCE OF GIZENGA IN ZAIREN PRESS HAS ENCOURAGED SPATE OF RUMORS AND UNREST.

E. LOCAL INTELLIGENCE SOURCES, FAZ AND CND, HAVE BEEN UNABLE CORREBORATE REPORTS DESPITE ALLEGED EFFORTS.

F. BOTH BELGIAN AND U.S. CONSULATES SITUATED NEAR REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION, GENDARMERIE AND FAZ, ALL OF WHICH GUARDED ON 24 HOUR BASIS.

G. JOHNSON RESIDENCE CURRENTLY DIRECTLY OPPOSITE PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S BUKAVU RESIDENCE, WHICH HEAVILY GUARDED AT ALL TIMES, AS WELL AS SOME 300 YARDS FROM REGIONAL COMMISSIONER'S RESIDENCE, LIKEWISE HEAVILY GUARDED. JOHNSON MOVING IN APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS TO RESIDENCE OPPOSITE 7TH MILITARY REGION COMMANDANT WHICH ALSO SUBJECT OF 24 HOUR GUARD.

H. ADAMS, BELGIAN CONGEN AND BELGIAN VICE CONSUL RESIDENCES WITHIN 400 YARDS OF EACH OTHER. THIS AREA PATROLLED NIGHTLY.

I. ALL PARTIES DOUBT CAPABILITY OF PRP MOUNT OPERATION DESCRIBED KINSHASA 947 (REF B), BUT HAVE TAKEN POSSIBILITY SERIOUSLY.

J. CHECKPOINTS IN BARAKA AREA REINFORCED. CHECKPOINTS AT KAMANYELA AND NGEZI (MOST FEASIBLE ROUTE BARAKA/BUKAVU ALSO REINFORCED).

2. GIVEN ABOVE, REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES WISH AVOID GIVING CREDENCE TO THREATS BY PLACING 24 HOUR ARMED GUARD ON RESIDENCES OR OFFICE BUILDINGS OR BY PROVIDING ESCORT SERVICE. THEY FELL THAT THIS WOULD TEND TO FURTHER CONFIRM CLAIMS OF PRP TO BE VIABLE ORGANIZATION AND ALARM/AGITATE INCRESINGLY RESTIVE POPULATION. THEY BELIEVE ALSO THAT SECURITY MEASURES CURRENTLY IN EFFECT ARE SUFFICIENT TO MEET THREAT.

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3. GIVEN UNREALIABILITY OF LOCAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM, REGULAR CHECK-IN SYSTEM WITH FSLE OR GENDARMERIE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT.

4. ADAMS BEEFING UP RESIDENTIAL SECURITY AND JOHNSON WILL DO LIKEWISE WHEN IN NEW RESIDENCE.

5. POST CURRENTLY HAS ONLY ONE PR-36 ON-HAND, OTHERS HAVING BEEN SENT TO KINSHASA FOR REPAIR. SAME SITUATION APPLIES KWM-2A.

6. ADAMS AND JOHNSON DRIVE THEMSELVES WHEN POSSIBLE AND ALTERNATE USE OF CONSULAR VEHICLES, TWO OF WHICH ARE LANDROVERS AND THUS NOT CONSPICUOUS EXCEPT FOR LICENSE PLATES. ALSO CHANGE ROUTES AND TIMES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

7. NEW REGIONAL COMMISSIONER ON BOARD AND AWARE OF PROBLEMS. BELIEVE HOWEVER, AFTER BRIEF MEETING WITH HIM, THAT HE DOES NOT VIEW AFFAIR AS

SERIOUSLY AS DID PREDECESSOR AND WOULD FLATLY REFUSE INCREASE IN LEVEL OF SECURITY WITHOUT LOCAL CORROBORATION OR DIRECT ORDERS FROM KINSHASA.

10. IN SUM, POST BELIEVES BEST COURSE OF ACTION IS TO BEEF UP PHYSICAL

SECURITY OF RESIDENCES AND OFFICE BUILDING TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PR AND HN 36'S (TO INCLUDE BACK-UPS) FOR USE BY ADAMS, MRS. ADAMS AND JOHNSON, AS WELL AS PEACE CORPS REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE NASH, AND NOT COUNT TOO HEAVILY ON CONTINUED HIGH LEVEL OF INTEREST ON PART OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

ADAMS

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O, MR. HOGANSON 3/5/76.

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